

Summer Reading Ideas

2015 - Grade 8

The books included on this list are recommended by library professionals. However, not every book is appropriate for every child. Parents should take an active role in helping children choose books appropriate to their interests and maturity level.

March: Book 1 by John Lewis (2013)

An account of the author's lifelong struggle for civil and human rights spanning his youth in rural Alabama, life changing meeting with Martin Luther King, Jr. and the birth of the Nashville Student Movement.

The President Has Been Shot by James L. Swanson (2013)

Recounts President Kennedy's assassination and details key events while sharing informative back stories and archival photographs.

Rescuing the Children: The Story of the Kindertransport by Deborah Hodge (2012)

Discusses the efforts of the Kindertransport, which rescued thousands of Jewish children from Nazi occupied countries before the start of World War II.

Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson (2014)

In vivid prose, Woodson shares what it was like to grow up as an African American in the 1960s and 1970s, living with remnants of Jim Crow and her growing awareness of the Civil Rights movement.

The Running Dream by Wendelin Van Draanen (2011)

When a school bus accident leaves 16-year-old Jessica an amputee, she returns to school with a prosthetic limb and her track team finds a wonderful way to help rekindle her dream of running again.

Mockingbird by Kathryn Erskine (2010)

Caitlin, who has Asperger's Syndrome, struggles to understand emotions, show empathy, make friends at school, while at home she seeks closure by working on a project with her father.

The Rock and the River by Kekla Magoon (2009)

In 1968 Chicago, 14-year-old Sam Childs is caught in a conflict between his father's nonviolent approach to seeking civil rights for African Americans and his older brother, who has joined the Black Panther Party.

The Crossover by Kwame Alexander (2014)

Fourteen-year-old twin basketball stars Josh and Jordan wrestle with highs and lows on and off the court as their father ignores his declining health.

Michael Vey: The Prisoner of Cell 25 by Richard Paul Evans (2011)

Michael, a 14-year-old with Tourette's syndrome who possesses special electric powers, discovers that a cheerleader named Taylor also has special powers. With the help of their friends, they set out to discover how Michael and Taylor ended up this way, but their investigation brings them to the attention of a powerful group who wants to control the electric children.

Unstoppable by Tim Green (2012)

More than a football story, this unforgettable bestseller was inspired by interviews with real cancer survivors and insider sports experience. It tells of a brave boy with a rough childhood who learns what it truly means to be unstoppable.

Book descriptions from World Cat, Alexandria and original by librarian.